

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-05

LAB-04 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /074 W

----- 087123

R 050700Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 361

INFO AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CG AO ZA ECON

SUBJECT: LOBITO STRIKE

1. BENGUELA RAILWAY IS OF COURSE CRITICAL TO ECONOMIES OF ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE AS WELL AS ANGOLA. THUS, THERE HAS BEEN CONCERN HERE, AND ESPECIALLY IN LUBUMBASHI, OVER WORK SLOWDOWNS AND STRIKES AT LOBITO WHICH HAVE LED TO SEVERE PORT CONGESTION AND LONG DELAYS.

2. SOMETIME AGO I WAS TOLD MOBUTU, WHO ALLOWS FEW STRIKES IN ZAIRE, HAS COMPLAINED TO PORTUGUESE DURING MEETING ON POLITICAL PROBLEMS AND HAD BEEN TOLD THAT DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT CONCERNED OVER WORKERS WELFARE WOULD NOT INTERVENE. I HAVE NOW BEEN TOLD THAT PRESIDENT KAUNDA OF ZAMBIA RECENTLY MADE CLEAR TO MPLA LEADERS THAT HIS CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR NETO WAS CONTINGENT UPON MPLA ACTION TO IMPROVE LOBITO PORT SITUATION. ALLEGEDLY THEREAFTER LUCIO LARA, WHO REPRESENTS MPLA IN ANGOLA, INTERVENED PUBLICLY AND FORCIBLY WITH STRIKERS WHO ARE NOW SAID TO BE ONCE AGAIN WORKING FULL TIME.

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3. I DON'T VOUCH FOR ANY OF THIS FACTUALLY, BUT IF
TRUE, IT IS INTERESTING COMMENTARY ON POLITICAL
DYNAMICS OF MOBUTU-KAUNDA-MPLA RELATIONS.
HINTON

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Message Attributes

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